

NEWS RELEASE

**OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS**

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For Immediate Release

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Ronald J. Tenpas, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, announced today that on April 6, 2005, **RYAN WILLIAM McDONALD**, age 25, of Olney, Illinois, was named in a two count Indictment returned by a Federal Grand Jury sitting in Benton, Illinois.

Count 1 charged that on or about February 22, 2005, in Richland County, McDONALD did knowingly possess a computer disk or other material that contained four images of child pornography that has been mailed, or shipped or transported in interstate commerce by any means, including by computer, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 2252A(a)(5)(B) and 2.

Count 2 charged that on or about February 22, 2005, in Richland County, McDONALD did knowingly possess a computer disk or other material that contained a video clip of child pornography that has been mailed, or shipped or transported in interstate commerce by any means, including by computer, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 2252A(a)(5)(B) and 2.

With respect to each of the two counts, McDONALD faces a penalty of up to 10 years imprisonment, a fine of up to \$250,000, and a term of supervised release of up to 3 years.

An indictment is a formal charge against a defendant. Under the law, a defendant is presumed to be innocent of a charge until proved guilty beyond a reasonable doubt to the satisfaction of a jury.

The investigation in this case was conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Richland County Sheriff's Office.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney George A. Norwood.

The United States Attorney's Office, in conjunction with federal and state law enforcement authorities, is actively investigating and prosecuting individuals who produce, distribute, or possess child pornography. Anyone with information concerning the use of the Internet for the purposes of trafficking in child pornography is encouraged to contact their local police department or the Federal Bureau of Investigation.